



United Presbyterian Church

525 East Front Street • Plainfield, NJ 07060 • 908-756-2666 • <http://www.upcplainfield.org/>

Where God is exalted, Everyone matters, and You

Worship Services: Sunday 11:00 am & Thursday 7pm

November 2022 Newsletter

"Let your light shine before others so they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5: 16)



Greetings to you in the Holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ, our blessed Redeemer. As always, I pray that all is well with each of you as you continue growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

This personal testimony of thanksgiving is shared to glorify God, thank people for their support, and illustrate the reality of the adage *that teamwork makes the dream work*.

On Tuesday, October 25, 2022, in Atlantic City, New Jersey, I received the Volunteer of the Year award from the Health Care Association of New Jersey. The award lauds my service to AristaCare at Norwood Terrace and a lifetime of volunteerism to the global community.

I am humbled, honored, and grateful for the Association's recognition as a religious leader and pastor of the United Presbyterian Church Plainfield (UPC). However, many others deserve recognition as well.

To that end, I offer the following litany of thanks. First, I thank God for creating opportunities for me to participate in shining the light of encouragement and hope into the lives of some of the most marginalized and vulnerable members of society – the sick, shut-in, and poor. Next, I thank God for Nivana Elrashedy, Director of Activities, and Sam Schwebel, Administrator, AristaCare Norwood Terrace, for nominating me for the award.

I am also grateful to Elder Emory Dawson, President of the Corporation, United Presbyterian Church Plainfield, for submitting a letter of recommendation on behalf of the congregation supporting my nomination. I thank UPC members and friends for trusting my judgment which gives me the support to represent this austere body in the broader community.

Last but not least, I thank God for Davaughn, assistant to the pastor and the UPC system administrator (the church's tech person), who ensures every mission project comes to fruition. His vast understanding of building effective collaborative community networks makes it possible for UPC, and me, to engage in shared ministry that creates the links necessary to positively impact the quality of life for others less fortunate than ourselves.

Davaughn does an excellent job of remaining in the background while helping strengthen community partner relationships and coordinating collecting and moving goods, including providing the physical labor needed. He works with our ministry partners to identify ways UPC can collaborate with them for the good of the community. He manages the church's food ministry and loads and unloads the boxes of food that UPC distributes to other organizations that offer that food to individuals and families in need.

During this season of thanksgiving, please join me in thanking God for empowering us to show God's love by using the resources - skills, talents, time, and money- he has entrusted to us for his glory by making wherever we are better.



Mr. Sam Schwebel & Pastor Allegra

In addition to a beautiful plaque and the privilege of attending the Association's keynote address about effective leadership, I received a monetary award that I am donating to United's Helping Homeless Families Initiative (HHFI).

Thank you for being so supportive, and Glory to God!

Pastor Allegra



Pastor Allegra & AristaCare staff

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE INPERSON & ONLINE

**** DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 6TH – TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1-HOUR ****



Sunday Worship (Traditional)

**Pastor Allegra Hoots
11:00am**

In the Sanctuary & Via YouTube

<https://bit.ly/3jyylpg>

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***Lenten Studies***

**7:00pm Daily—Nov. 27 to Dec. 24, 2022**  
<https://bit.ly/3vapmjf> - See page 4 for more info

***Contemporary Worship Service***

**Will be suspended during Lent**

***Daily Devotional***

**6:00 to 6:15am Daily  
Via Zoom**

<https://bit.ly/3JuXrzD>

***Sunday School  
In-Person***

***Celebrate the Wonder of all Ages***

Ages 3 to 12  
Lesson: Cokesbury Kids Unit 1:  
Call September—Hannah I  
Samuel 1:1-28

Middle & High School  
Truth or Dare

Lessons that provide Biblical answers  
to some important questions

**- Call the Church Office for more info -**

***Adult Bible Study***

Series Topic:

***“Freedom-Rescue, Justice, and Faithful  
Conversations”***

**Dates:** Sundays @ 10-10:45am

**Location:** Lind Room, 10-10:45am

**Description:**

In our modern world, we think of freedom as the ability to do whatever we want without restrictions. Through the story of the Israelites’ rescue from slavery, we see freedom is about being able to choose without restriction to whom or what we devote ourselves.

**Upcoming Events**

See calendars for more activities and events

| November |         |                                  | Nov. 27th @ 7pm Advent Study begins (see page 4)                                         |         |                                    | December |      |       |
|----------|---------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|----------|------|-------|
| Date     | Time    | Event                            | Date                                                                                     | Time    | Event                              | Date     | Time | Event |
| 1        |         | All Saints Day                   | 10                                                                                       | 10:00am | Administration Committee Meeting   |          |      |       |
| 4        |         | World Community Day              | 11                                                                                       | 1:00pm  | Christmas Caroling—Join us!        |          |      |       |
| 6        |         | Daylight Savings Time Ends       | 21                                                                                       | 7:30pm  | Session Meeting                    |          |      |       |
| 8        |         | Election Day                     | 24                                                                                       | 7:00pm  | Christmas Eve Service              |          |      |       |
| 11       |         | Veterans day                     | 25                                                                                       |         | Christmas Day-Nativity of the Lord |          |      |       |
| 12       | 10:00am | Administration Committee Meeting | <b>"Please note that December 31st 2022 is the deadline for all per capita payments"</b> |         |                                    |          |      |       |
| 17       | 11:00am | Lunch with the Pastor            |                                                                                          |         |                                    |          |      |       |
| 21       | 7:30pm  | Session Meeting                  |                                                                                          |         |                                    |          |      |       |
| 24       |         | Thanksgiving Day                 |                                                                                          |         |                                    |          |      |       |
| 27       |         | First Day of Advent              |                                                                                          |         |                                    |          |      |       |

**FOR VIRTUAL EVENTS:  
TO CONNECT BY COMPUTER OR TELEPHONE,  
GO TO THE CHURCH’S WEBSITE FOR INFOR-  
MATION: <http://www.upcplainfield.org/>**

## What is Advent? (November 27<sup>th</sup> to December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022)



*"The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come." ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

*"God of hope, I look to you with an open heart and yearning spirit. During this Advent season, I will keep alert and awake, listening for your word and keeping to your precepts. My hope is in you." ~ Matthew Kelly*

*"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." [Isaiah 7:14](#)*

**Advent** (from Latin *adventus*, "coming") is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to November 30 and is the beginning of the liturgical year. The traditional liturgical color for Advent is purple.

### Advent Symbolism

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these "last days" ([Acts 2:17](#), [Hebrews 1:2](#)) as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God's past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis, they called for God once again to act for them. *In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people.*

In this light, the Advent hymn "[O Come, O Come, Emmanuel](#)" perfectly represents the church's cry during the Advent season:

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appears.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

While Israel would have sung the song in expectation of Christ's first coming, the church now sings the song in commemoration of that first coming and in expectation of the second coming in the future.

#### Bible Readings for Advent 2022

First Week, November 27th: [Isaiah 9](#)

Second Week, December 4th: [Isaiah 40](#)

Third Week, December 11th: [Matthew 2](#)

Fourth Week, December 18th: [John 3](#)

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/what-is-advent.html>

*During Advent, we celebrate and reflect on Christ's birth while preparing and looking forward to his second coming, for his people.*

*Special Worship Services  
during Thanksgiving and Lent*

|                     |                                             |                    |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Thanksgiving        | November 20                                 | 11:00am - 12:30 pm |
| Christmas Eve       | December 24, 2022                           | 7:00pm - 8:00 pm   |
| Christmas           | Sunday, December 25                         | 11:00am - 12:30 pm |
| Watch Night Service | December 31                                 | 10:00pm - 12:30 am |
| Advent              | Sunday, November 27<br>& nightly thereafter | 7:00pm             |

**ADVENT & ADVENT STUDIES BEGINS NOVEMBER 27, 2022**

ADVENT  
IN  
PLAIN  
SIGHT

A DEVOTION  
THROUGH  
TEN OBJECTS

JILL J.  
DUFFIELD



**Date:** Sunday, November 27, 2022

**Time:** 7:00 pm each night through the Season.

**Book:** "Advent in Plain Sight" by Jill Duffield

is the book that will be used and is available through multiple vendors.

During Advent, Thursday evening services will be suspended.

*Open to the public and the church family with an RSVP to the Church Office*

You're Invited . . .



**Don't miss the next one on....**

**November 17, 2022**

**Theme:**

**"Looking Forward"**

**Congratulations to William Bishop-Mote**

On average, approximately 4-6% of all Scouts earn the Eagle Rank. Congratulations to William Bishop-Mote on successfully completing his Eagle Board of Review and earning the rank of Eagle Scout. William is Helen Foerster's grandson and the son of Leslie Bishop who grew up in UPC.

Will's Eagle Service Project was the remarking of the Bird Street Trail System and adding an informational kiosk at the Forest Road entrance near the water tower in their town. This kiosk contains a map of the Bird Street trails, along with a QR code linking back to the PDF of the map as well as a legend of the trail marking symbols. The Stoughton Conservation Commission (Stoughton, MA) has received a grant that will include adding kiosks at the other trail heads.

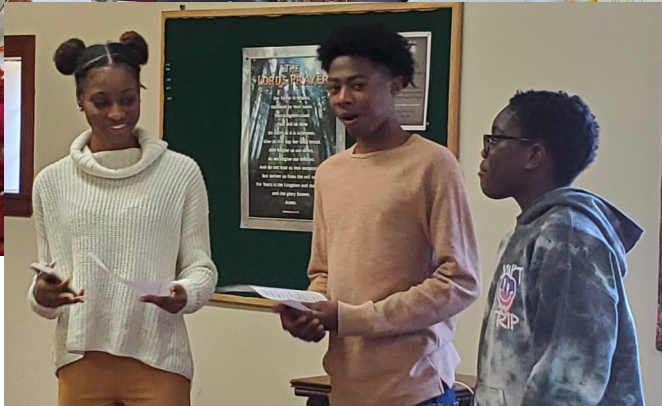
Will led a group of 5 adults and 11 current and former Scouts from Troop 516, including 2 Eagle Scouts, in remarking the trails in June and July and completed the kiosk build and installation in July. A total of more than 154 combined hours were spent planning, preparing, and executing this project.





Pastor Allegra Hoots

Pastor Allegra Hoots  
Thank you for your  
Creative "MINT"  
& "Orange" MINT &  
Earth "MINT" to UPC!  
11/10/2022



**PASTOR, GOD PLACED YOU AMONG US  
FOR A REASON.  
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO.**

**\*PASTOR'S APPRECIATION 2022\***

## November 1st—All Saints Day

All Saints' Day is holy in the Western Christian tradition, celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, the Lutheran Church, the Presbyterian Church and more. It is designed to show honor and reverence to saints both canonized and unknown, and in some faiths also to give thanks to those who have guided others to Christ, like a friend or relative. Around the world, there are many traditions woven into All Saints' Day, from the laying of flowers on graves on November 1 to the Mexican Day of the Dead — which honors children who have passed on, on the holiday's first day — not to mention Halloween in the U.S. and Canada, a celebration that originally was in large part linked to All Saints' Day.



Today, the holiday is also known — depending on the location and branch of the church — as All Hallows' Day, Halloween, the Feast of All Saints, and the Solemnity of All Saints.

The tradition of Halloween originated with the ancient Celtic festival of [Samhain](#), when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. The evening before was All Saints Day was known as All Hallows Eve, and later Halloween.

<https://nationaltoday.com/saints-day/>

<https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween>

## World Community Day - November 4, 2022

Theme: "A Call to Pray"

World Community Day continues to emphasize peace but has been broadened to include justice, a vital partner of peace. The once clear categories of "domestic" and "foreign" were consciously blurred so the global scope of the wide range of problems could be emphasized on World Community Day.

<https://www.churchwomenunited.net/cwucelebrations>

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/churchcalendar/>



## Election Day - November 8, 2022

One of the most important rights of American citizens is the franchise—the right to vote. Originally under the Constitution, only white male citizens over the age of 21 were eligible to vote. This shameful injustice has been corrected and voting rights have been extended several times over the course of our history. Today, citizens over the age of 18 cannot be denied the right to vote on the basis of race, religion, sex, disability, or sexual orientation. In every state except North Dakota, citizens must register to vote, and laws regarding the registration process vary by State.

### Prayer:

*May the God of justice lead us through the tumultuous seas. May the Christ who came to dwell among us renew the strength of our dreams. May the Holy Spirit guide us to still waters where justice, solidarity, and peace reign. Amen.*

*At the Time of an Election Under your law we live, great God, and by your will we govern ourselves. Help us as good citizens to respect neighbors whose views differ from ours so that without partisan anger, we may work out issues that divide us, and elect candidates to serve the common welfare; through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.*



<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/PVO-JR-BCW-2018.pdf>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/our-government/elections-and-voting/>

## Let us pray

God of heaven and earth, we remember before you the work of those whose earthly mission is accomplished. Send us into the world, as you sent them, to extend the loving rule of the one you sent, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts." — Jeremiah 31:33

## Veterans Day – November 11, 2022

Let's join together in prayer for veterans across the US.

Did you know there are over sixteen million living veterans who have served in at least one war? Over two million of those veterans are women and nearly ten million of all veterans are over the age of 65. Can you imagine being a part of a group of men and women who are ready to defend our country from war? To be willing to leave family, friends, and comforts to keep us safe? It is only fitting we would have a special day to honor them. Veteran's Day offers time to remember, encourage, and comfort Veterans in prayer.

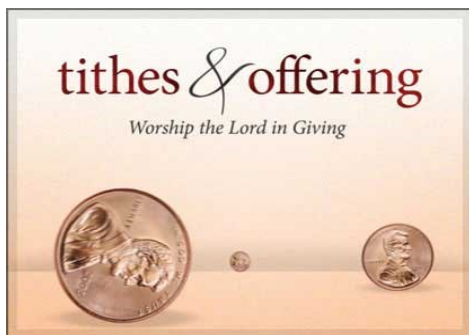
A veteran is a word that simply means someone who is experienced in a field. But in our country, we also call those men and women who serve (or have previously served) in our military and in any branch a veteran.

Most of us remember September 11, 2001. One of the most striking things about the days following were the men and women who stepped up to protect our country. Why? Because they saw the threat of evil in this world and wanted to shield others from danger.

No matter your political affiliation or stance on the War on Terror, we can all agree that the men and women who serve deserve our thanks. One beautiful way to say "Thank You" is to pray for them. They must certainly have their struggles, and we cannot know the depths of what they go through on a daily basis.

Prayer is a way for us to say thank you and let them know we have not forgotten them.

*O God, we give you praise for these people who have allowed us to serve and worship You in freedom. We do not take for granted that there are millions of Christians around the world afraid of prison or even death because of what they believe. Our veterans are a significant reason why we do not fear and we thank You for them. Amen.*



### THIS IS STEWARDSHIP!

*Our gift, no matter how small, goes a very long way to support the church and the community.*

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. [2 Corinthians 9:7](#)*



To bless the Church with your tithes and offering you may:

1. Drop it off at the church office
2. Mail your check (not cash) to the church
3. Log in to <https://bit.ly/3oyj1J6> or
4. Go to the UPC website homepage and click on the "Give Now" button

*~ Thank you ~*

## PASTOR'S LUNCH



*September*  
*Theme: Without a vision, the people perish.*  
Proverbs 29:18



*October*  
*Theme:*  
*Do everything as*  
*unto the Lord.*  
Colossians 3:23

Eighteen people attended the Pastor's October Luncheon. The two pictures shown in the newsletter captures the ice-breakers at the beginning of the event, a few minutes before the crowd began arriving.

Towels and washcloths donated by  
UPC members to the Helping  
Homeless Families Initiative (HHFI).



UPC'S  
MISSION  
PROJECT(S)

—  
HELPING  
HOMELESS  
FAMILIES  
(HHFI)



## Thanksgiving Observance

Author Unknown

Count your blessings instead  
of your crosses;

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes;

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears;

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean;

Count your kind deeds instead of your  
mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth;

Count on God instead of yourself.

### FEEDING THE HUNGRY

#### HELP STAR FISH FOOD PANTRY TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR

##### For monetary donations:

Make your check payable to Star Fish

##### For unexpired Food Donations

Drop off your items in the

Church Office or Sanctuary or

Call Avril at 732-742-8762 if pick up is needed.

#### HELP SOMEONE IN NEED—GIVE!



#### \* NEED HELP BUYING GROCERIES? \*

Check to see if you are eligible for food assistance (SNAP), cash assistance (WFNJ/TANF or WFNJ/GA), and health Insurance (NJ Family Care/Medicaid). From here you can apply for services or learn about additional resources.

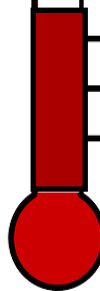
Click on this link: <https://www.njhelps.org/>

## United Presbyterian Church BUILDING FUND

As of 10/30/22 the total collected is  
**\$9,305**



9,305



The UPC administration committee wants to be certain all UPC members and friends are aware of the establishment of the Building Fund at UPC to which contributions can be made to help defray the cost of four maintenance projects scheduled for 2022. These projects involve heating, roofing, drainage, and renovation that are essential to ensure the health and safety of the occupants of our facility.

This building fund originated in 2021. At UPC's annual meeting on Sunday February 20th a motion was made and passed for United to be more purposeful in our efforts to encourage contributions to the Building Fund. To accomplish this, UPC members and friends will be receiving a letter from United that will provide specifics of the four maintenance projects to which funds contributed to the Building Fund will be dedicated.

Contributions to the Building Fund are welcome anytime and may be accomplished in the following ways:

1. Sending a check, made out to the United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield, to Treasurer, 525 East Front Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060 with "Building Fund" written in the memo section of the check.

OR

2. Contributions can be made through the "Give Now" button located at the UPC website at [www.upcplainfield.org](http://www.upcplainfield.org) Enter your contribution to the "General Fund Regular Offering". In the notes section indicate "Building Fund".

Wanda Breitenbach  
Administration Committee, Acting Chair

## Truer Words Were Never Spoken

Words from Colin Powell

The less you associate with some people, the more your life will improve.  
Any time you tolerate mediocrity in others, it increases your mediocrity.  
An important attribute in successful people is their impatience with negative thinking and negative acting people.  
As you grow, your associates will change.  
Some of your friends will not want you to go on.  
They will want you to stay where they are.  
Friends that don't help you climb will want you to crawl.  
Your friends will stretch your vision or choke your dream.  
Those that don't increase you will eventually decrease you.

### **Consider this:**

Never receive counsel from unproductive people.  
Never discuss your problems with someone incapable of contributing to the solution, because those who never succeed themselves are always first to tell you how.  
Not everyone has a right to speak into your life.  
You are certain to get the worst of the bargain when you exchange ideas with the wrong person.  
Don't follow anyone who's not going anywhere.  
With some people you spend an evening; with others you invest it.  
Be careful where you stop to inquire for directions along the road of life.  
Wise is the person who fortifies his life with the right friendships.  
If you run with wolves, you will learn how to howl.  
But, if you associate with eagles, you will learn how to soar to great heights.

**"A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses."**

The simple but true fact of life is that you become like those with whom you closely associate - for the good and the bad.

Note: Be not mistaken. This is applicable to family as well as friends.  
Yes...do love, appreciate and be thankful for your family,  
for they will always be your family no matter what.  
Just know that they are human first and though they are family to you,  
they may be a friend to someone else and will fit somewhere in the criteria above.

***"In Prosperity Our Friends Know Us. In Adversity We Know Our Friends."***

***"Never make someone a priority when you are only an option for them."***

***"If you are going to achieve excellence in big things,  
you develop the habit in little matters."***

***Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude"***



## City of Plainfield—Recreation Events

For More information and activities go to: <https://bit.ly/3yvXfxK>

|                                      |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat., Feb & Mar 2023                 |           | <b>Interactive Stem Program (Ages 8-13)</b><br>Registration are handled through the Mad Science website on a first-come, first served basis.<br>(201) 236-1400 <a href="https://northeastnj.madscience.org/">https://northeastnj.madscience.org/</a> |
| Mon/Wed/Fri                          | 9am       | <b>Walk with Ease</b><br>Hub Stine Sports Complex, 1410 Randolph Road                                                                                                                                                                                |
| October to November<br>Ends Nov. 8th | 6:30—8pm  | <b>Intro to Fencing Fall Camp</b><br>Performing Arts Center— <a href="https://register.communitypass.net/plainfield">https://register.communitypass.net/plainfield</a>                                                                               |
| October to December<br>Tuesdays      | 6-7:-00pm | <b>Adult Zumba</b><br>Performing Arts Center—724 Park Ave. / \$25 fpr 8 classes                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Wednesdays                           | 6-7:-30pm | <b>Girl Scout Troop—Heart of NJ Troop 40954</b><br>Performing Arts Center—724 Park Ave.<br>For more info: 908-753-3097                                                                                                                               |
| October to December<br>Saturdays     | 9-9:45am  | <b>Yoga</b><br>Performing Arts Center—724 Park Ave. / For more info: 908-753-3097                                                                                                                                                                    |

# Hear My Voice

*honoring music by female composers*

Join Rise Up Chorus in this performance as we amplify the voices of female composers of diverse backgrounds, races, ethnicities, orientations, religions, and compositional styles. To further our vision, the entire concert will be conducted by women from our artistic staff as well as members of the chorus.

A portion of the proceeds from each ticket sale will benefit **Women Aware** in New Brunswick – a non-profit organization that provides domestic violence services to women in need.

**Saturday, November 19, 2022 at 7pm**  
**Sunday, November 20, 2022 at 4pm**  
First Presbyterian Church, Metuchen, NJ

Tickets are \$25/adults, \$20/seniors in advance (\$30/adults, \$25/seniors at the door)  
students aged 17 and younger are free

Remember our brothers and sisters listed below.  
Call them if you are able to.

*"Make me well, O Lord,  
and I will be well;  
be my saviour,  
and I will be safe:  
for you are my hope"*  
Jeremiah 17:14 (BBE)



Leroy Anglin  
Emory Dawson  
Karen Edmonds  
Helen Foerster  
Sharon Graham  
O'Harold Hoots  
BJ Klikus  
Frank Klikus

Vilvurn Marsh  
Bobett Neil  
Sheila Neil  
Marianna Perry  
Pat Perry  
Gail Stokes  
Izaiyah Stokes

Send your Prayer requests to the Church Office  
You will be placed on the prayer list



**November**

- 1 Nneoma Awobue
- 6 Sheila Neil
- 10 Liz Mangan
- 13 James Plummer
- 15 Dorothy Farmer

**December**

- 10 Macy Robinson
- 13 Javin Scott
- 16 Yetunde Falowo
- 18 Avril Lecky
- 22 Patricia Dawson
- 24 Pat Perry
- 26 Crystal Awobue
- 27 Gabrielle Greene
- 28 Ginni Hansen
- 29 Jennifer Youngsam

**Flower Ministry**

With your donation of \$25 or more to the Flower Fund, the Deacons will provide a beautiful floral arrangement for the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings. After worship, the arrangement will also brighten the day of a member or friend of UPC who is unable to join us for worship.

Flowers may be made in honor or memory of a loved one. Honoree names will be listed in the church bulletin.

*You may complete the form below or add your information to the flower chart in the Narthex.*



*Blessings,  
Zorina Bowers*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your  
generous support of  
UPC's Flower Ministry

*Board of Deacons*

Hatred stirs up conflict,  
but love covers over all wrongs.

**Proverbs 10:12**



## How to Turn a Church Into a Garden

Rev. Dr. Heber Brown III wants to connect Black churches with Black farmers—and transform a historic source of trauma into a source of power.

BY JEWEL WICKER (<https://www.bonappetit.com/story/rev-dr-heber-brown-iii>)  
AS PUBLISHED BY BON APPETIT MAGAZINE

Brown (center) with his team, Namita Money (left), Shirley Taylor (right), and Sha'Von Terrell (not pictured), at the Pleasant Hope Baptist Church garden in Baltimore. Photo By Reginald Cunningham

It wasn't until Rev. Dr. Heber Brown III decided to transform the front yard of his church into a garden that he began to remember his own connection to farming. The senior pastor of Pleasant Hope Baptist Church in Baltimore grew up picking string beans and tomatoes from his grandparents' backyard. He'd listen to stories about how his great-grandmother used to preserve food in towering stacks of mason jars—enough to share with her whole rural Virginia neighborhood. Today he carries that legacy forward as founder of the [Black Church Food Security Network](#), an organization that connects churches with farmers in numerous states. His goal? To create alternative food systems that address systemic issues such as racism and climate change.

In addition to fostering connections and teaching churchgoers to grow their own food, Brown's own church regularly hosts a market where they sell tomatoes, cucumbers, summer squash, radish, okra, and other produce at affordable prices. They even grow their own herbs and make elderberry syrup to serve during communion instead of the usual packaged juice.

Foster connections and teach churchgoers to grow their own food

Last year, amid the global pandemic and a nationwide racial reckoning, Lizzo and Dua Lipa were among the celebrities to champion the Black Church Food Security Network, attracting funding from partnerships and a major increase in public donations. I caught up with the reverend to learn more about the inspiration behind the network, the enduring legacy of Black churches, and the outdated nature of our current food system.

**Ten years ago I started really paying attention...** to a pattern I saw in my congregation: People being hospitalized for diet-related issues. I wanted to do something about it beyond the spiritual support that is common for a pastor. So we took a portion of the church's front yard, about 1,500 square feet, and started growing our own produce.

**The death of Freddie Gray...** at the hands of the Baltimore police came five years after that. In the midst of the uprising, we saw city government and social support agencies back up off the Black community. Public transportation stopped running for a few days. The school system closed and 80,000 Black students who depended on school cafeterias for breakfast and lunch couldn't get that support. And so, bending the existing assets of Black churches—their kitchens, the vans, the people, the space—we began connecting with Black farmers so we could feed ourselves. That's how I launched the Black Church Food Security Network, in hopes of connecting Black churches with Black farmers. Word started to spread beyond Baltimore. Today we have more than 60 Black farmers providing fresh produce to the congregations within our network.

**Our current food system is propped up by...** plantation economics and has a deep legacy of enslavement and oppression. There's little that can be done to completely reform and change that system, and for me, little motivation to dedicate the few years I have on this earth to trying to change such a gargantuan system that has been oppressive for centuries. What I'd like to do is co-create alternative micro food systems, not just because of the racism and the oppression in the current food system, but also because of the impending challenges around climate change, the growing concerns around geopolitics, and COVID-19, which showed us how fragile our current food system is.

Co-create alternative micro food systems...challenges around climate change, geopolitics...

**There's a lot of trauma...** around farming and gardening in the Black community. Historically, many Black families left or were forced out of the South and off their land. The ripple effect of that trauma can be passed from generation to generation so the idea of farming can bring up some difficult memories. We had to create space to recognize that the land never terrorized us. Corn, tomatoes, cucumber, and watermelon never disrespected or violated us. The land is not the source of our trauma; it can be a source of our power if we organize those assets and resources together.

**I know I've failed if...** this effort ceases to exist once I'm no longer here. Food is a sacred symbol in every Black church. I say to people often that after the pulpit, the second holiest place in the building is the kitchen. The Black church has been around for a very long time; our greatest shot at having something that extends far beyond our lifetime is planting it in our soil and watching it blossom.



Building a community: Followers of Christ; Bonding with each other and our communities; Being more self sufficient with our own produce and the ability to share. What are your thoughts? Let us know!

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Parents, please read this to your younger child(ren)

### Zacchaeus Goes Out on a Limb



**Theme:** Jesus knows my name.  
**Object:** A tape measure to measure the children.  
**Scripture:** Luke 19:1-10

Watch this video if you do not know the song: "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man."  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkd-QFD7vMA>)

How tall are you? I thought it might be fun to measure some of you and see how tall you are. (Take a few minutes to measure some of the children.) Well, some of you are rather tall and some of you are shorter than some of the others.

I can remember when I was the age of some of you. I wasn't very tall. Many times I had trouble reaching things that were up on a high shelf. Sometimes, I would have to stand on a footstool or pull up a chair to stand on to reach what I wanted. If there was a tall person sitting in front of me at the movie, I would have to lean from side to side to see around them or sit on my knees to see over them.

What are some challenges people face when they're short? What's it like for you when you're somewhere and you just can't see? What do you do to try to see better?

I don't have to tell you about the problems of being short in a world full of tall people. You face that problem every day.

Today's Bible lesson is about a man who was very short. His name is Zacchaeus. You may know his story. You may have learned this song when you weren't much more than a baby:

Lead children in singing:

*Zacchaeus was a wee little man,  
And a wee little man was he.  
He climbed up in a sycamore tree,  
For the Lord he wanted to see.  
And as the Savior passed that way,*

*He looked up in the tree,  
And he said, "Zacchaeus, you come down!  
For I'm going to your house today.  
For I'm going to your house today.*

When Jesus came by and saw Zacchaeus in the tree, Jesus looked up at him and called him by name. Jesus knew his name! And Jesus knows your name.

Jesus said, "Zacchaeus! Come down quickly. I am going to be a guest in your home today." And Zacchaeus took Jesus to his house. The people could not believe that Jesus would go to the home of a man like that!

Lead children in acting shocked.

Jesus changed Zacchaeus. And Zacchaeus said, "I am going to give half of all that I own to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

Jesus forgave Zacchaeus and said, "Today salvation has come to this house. For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Jesus knew Zacchaeus' name. And he knew everything Zacchaeus had ever done. When Zacchaeus met Jesus, his life was changed. It doesn't matter if you are short or tall, Jesus knows your name, too, and Jesus knows everything about you.

#### PRAYER:

Dear God, we know that when we meet Jesus, it will be a life-changing experience. Thank You that Jesus knows our name and loves us. In Jesus' name, amen.

## The Story of Zacchaeus

### True or False?

Draw a Happy Face in the box to the left of every TRUE sentence and a Sad Face in the box to the left of every FALSE sentence.

|  |                                                                                          |
|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <b>Zacchaeus was a priest.</b>                                                           |
|  | <b>Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus when he came into town.</b>                             |
|  | <b>Zacchaeus was a tall man.</b>                                                         |
|  | <b>No one would let Zacchaeus through the crowd to see Jesus.</b>                        |
|  | <b>Zacchaeus climbed up a pole so he could see Jesus.</b>                                |
|  | <b>Jesus looked up at Zacchaeus and told him to come down.</b>                           |
|  | <b>Jesus went to a hotel to stay while he was in the town.</b>                           |
|  | <b>Zacchaeus was a good, honest man and everyone liked him.</b>                          |
|  | <b>He gave half his belongings to the poor and repaid four times what he had stolen.</b> |
|  | <b>Zacchaeus wanted to do good because Jesus had changed him!</b>                        |

## Zacchaeus and Jesus - Coloring Page





**"Please note that December 31st 2022 is the deadline for all per capita payments"**

**2022 PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT**

Never too Late!

Your annual Per Capita is \$40.00 and is shared by the General Assembly, The Synod of the Northeast, The Presbytery of the Northeast. Per Capita is a member assessment used to fund the operating expenses of the governing bodies. (Book of Order; G-9.0404 d). Mark your check or envelope "Per Capita".

**Consider paying more than your share to help cover the cost of others who are unable to pay**

**Important:**

**Deadline is the 20th of each month** for the Newsletter. Leave your news in the Church Office or email it to [upcnews525@gmail.com](mailto:upcnews525@gmail.com)

Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-3pm

**Schedule of Pastor's Office Hours**

Monday to Friday

9:00am to 1:00pm

Please call the Church Office for an Appointment  
or to contact the Pastor

**Session Members**

Al Tate (Clerk)  
Emory Dawson  
Patricia Dawson  
Avril Lecky  
Marcia Marsh-Hinds

**Newsletter**

**Newsletter Editors**

Avril Lecky  
George Hansen  
Hugh Lecky  
James Plummer

**Contributors**

Pastor Allegra Hoots  
Darius Butherde  
Helen Foerster  
Davaughn Hoots

**Church Administrators**

**Pastor Allegra Hoots**

**Director of Music:** Mr. Ronn Daniels

**Administrative Assistant:**

Mr. Davaughn Hoots

**Custodian:** Mr. Charles Rivers

**Board of Deacons**

Helen Foerster - Moderator  
Daniel Bofah  
Thelma Fleming  
Virginia Hansen

Desirae Hemans (in training)  
Tania Hemans (in training)  
Maggie Anglin (Volunteer)  
Zorina Bowers (Volunteer)

To contact the deacons for assistance  
Call the church office at 908-756-2666

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Church Email:** [upchurch@aol.com](mailto:upchurch@aol.com)

Stewardship: [upcplainfield525@gmail.com](mailto:upcplainfield525@gmail.com)

Newsletter: [upcnews525@gmail.com](mailto:upcnews525@gmail.com)

Church website: <http://upcplainfield.org>

Telephone No.: (908) 756-2666

**If you have information that you would like to  
share, send them to  
[upcnews525@gmail.com](mailto:upcnews525@gmail.com)**

# United Presbyterian Church

525 East Front Street • Plainfield, NJ 07060 • 908-756-2666 • <http://upcplainfield.org>

## November 2022

| SUNDAY                                                                                                              | MONDAY                                              | TUESDAY                                               | WEDNESDAY                                           | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | FRIDAY                                                                               | SATURDAY                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
|                                    |                                                     | 1                                                     | 2                                                   | 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 4                                                                                    | 5                                                         |
|                                                                                                                     |                                                     | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><b>ALL SAINTS DAY</b>   | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                          | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>7:00pm Contemporary Worship Service                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 6-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><b>WORLD COMMUNITY DAY</b>                                | 6-6:15am Daily Devotion                                   |
| 6                                                                                                                   | 7                                                   | 8                                                     | 9                                                   | 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 11                                                                                   | 12                                                        |
| 11am Worship Service<br>In-person & Livestream<br>Communion Service<br><br>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS<br>TIME ENDS            | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                          | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br><b>ELECTION DAY</b> | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                          | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>7:00pm Contemporary Worship Service                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br><b>VETERANS DAY</b><br>Register for Pastor's Lunch | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>10am Administration Mtg |
| 13                                                                                                                  | 14                                                  | 15                                                    | 16                                                  | 17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 18                                                                                   | 19                                                        |
| 11am Worship Service<br>In-person & Livestream<br>Youth Sunday                                                      | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                          | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                            | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>7:30pm Session Mtg    | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>11:00am PASTOR'S LUNCH<br>7:00pm Contemporary Worship Service                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                                           | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                |
| 20                                                                                                                  | 21                                                  | 22                                                    | 23                                                  | 24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 25                                                                                   | 26                                                        |
| 11am Worship Service<br>In-person & Livestream                                                                      | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                          | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                            | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                          | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>7:00pm Contemporary Worship Service<br><b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                                           | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                |
| 27                                                                                                                  | 28                                                  | 29                                                    | 30                                                  | <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px;">                     Computer Logon Info —<br/>                     Sunday Worship: <a href="https://bit.ly/3jyylpg">https://bit.ly/3jyylpg</a><br/>                     Lenten Studies: <a href="https://bit.ly/3vapmjf">https://bit.ly/3vapmjf</a><br/>                     Daily Devotional: <a href="https://bit.ly/3juXrzD">https://bit.ly/3juXrzD</a> </div> |                                                                                      |                                                           |
| 11am Worship Service<br>In-person & Livestream<br>Dedication Sunday<br>FIRST DAY OF ADVENT<br>7:00pm LENTEN STUDIES | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>7:00pm LENTEN STUDIES | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>7:00pm LENTEN STUDIES   | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br>7:00pm LENTEN STUDIES |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                      |                                                           |

**NOTE:**

CALENDAR EVENTS MAY CHANGE BASED ON THE STATES POLICY ON GROUP MEETING. THE CALENDAR REFLECTS REGULARLY OCCURRING EVENTS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE. **CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.**

Communion & Deacon Sunday — 1st Sunday Monthly  
 Youth Sunday—2nd Sunday monthly  
 Dedication Sunday—4th Sunday Monthly

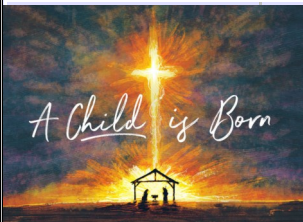
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 3rd Wednesday @ 7:30pm: Session Meeting

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## December 2022

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                         | MONDAY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | TUESDAY                                                    | WEDNESDAY                                                                        | THURSDAY                                                                 | FRIDAY                                                     | SATURDAY                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                | Computer Logon Info —<br>Sunday Worship: <a href="https://bit.ly/3jyylpg">https://bit.ly/3jyylpg</a><br>Lenten Studies: <a href="https://bit.ly/3vapmjf">https://bit.ly/3vapmjf</a><br>Daily Devotional: <a href="https://bit.ly/3JuXrzD">https://bit.ly/3JuXrzD</a> |                                                            |                                                                                  | 1                                                                        | 2                                                          | 3                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                            |                                                                                  | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES               | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES                                |
| 4                                                                                                                              | 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 6                                                          | 7                                                                                | 8                                                                        | 9                                                          | 10                                                                                        |
| 11am Worship Service<br>In-person & Livestream<br><br>Communion Service<br><br>WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY                          | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES                       | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES               | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>10am Administration Mtg<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES |
| 11                                                                                                                             | 12                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 13                                                         | 14                                                                               | 15                                                                       | 16                                                         | 17                                                                                        |
| 11am Worship Service<br>In-person & Livestream<br><br>YOUTH SUNDAY<br>1:00pm<br>CHRISTMAS CAROLING<br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES                       | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES               | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES                                |
| 18                                                                                                                             | 19                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 20                                                         | 21                                                                               | 22                                                                       | 23                                                         | 24                                                                                        |
| 11am Worship Service<br>In-person & Livestream<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES                                                 | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:30pm Session Mtg<br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES               | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>LENTEN STUDIES | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7PM: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE                              |
| 25                                                                                                                             | 26                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 27                                                         | 28                                                                               | 29                                                                       | 30                                                         | 31                                                                                        |
| 11am Worship Service<br>In-person & livestream<br>Dedication Sunday<br><br>CHRISTMAS DAY                                       | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                 | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                                       | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion<br><br>7:00pm<br>Contemporary Worship Service | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                 | 6:00-6:15am Daily Devotion                                                                |

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525 East Front Street  
Plainfield, NJ 07060

*Where God is exalted, Everyone matters, and You belong!*